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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Larbi DJACTA (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 105, "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations", appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/49/820.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item further at its 51st, 53rd, 60th, 62nd, 63rd and 66th meetings, on 30 and 31 March, 28 June and 7, 11 and 14 July 1995. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/49/SR.51, 53, 60, 62, 63 and 66).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/49/67), the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services concerning activities at the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/49/884 and A/49/937) and on the audit of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel pilot project (A/49/914). It also had before it a conference room paper on possible ways of improving the work of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/49/CRP.4/Rev.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT PROPOSALS

4. At the 60th meeting, on 28 June 1995, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it welcome the progress made in the implementation of procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat (A/C.5/49/67) (see para. 10, draft decision I).

5. At the 63rd meeting, on 11 July 1995, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the UNPROFOR personnel pilot project (A/49/914) (see para. 10, draft decision II).

6. At the same meeting, also on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation of allegations of irregularities and mismanagement (A/49/884) and on the audit of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (A/49/937) (see para. 10, draft decision III).

7. At the 66th meeting, on 14 July 1995, the Committee had before it a draft resolution (A/C.5/49/L.60) entitled "Rationalization of the work of the Fifth Committee", which was submitted by the Chairman. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 46/220 of 20 December 1991 on the rationalization of the work of the Fifth Committee,

"Affirming the need for closer coordination in the programmes of work of the Fifth Committee, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Joint Inspection Unit and the Secretariat and such other relevant bodies,

"1. Decides that the Fifth Committee shall hold two scheduled sessions each year - its regular session in October-December and a six-week session in May-June to consider the financing of peace-keeping operations and other urgent pending issues;

"2. Authorizes, without prejudice to rule 103 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee to have its bureau comprise a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur;

"3. Decides that the bureau of the Fifth Committee shall, in consultations with the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as early as practicable in the regular session, submit for approval by the Fifth Committee a programme of work for both the regular and May-June sessions, and that once approved, any delays in reporting by the Secretary-General or the Advisory Committee shall be reported immediately to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee and explained at the next formal meeting of the Committee;

"4. Decides that elections and appointments to financial and administrative bodies conducted in the Fifth Committee shall be held by the end of October;

"5. Decides to review the level of resources available for servicing the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, including staffing requirements for the secretariat of the Fifth Committee and the Committee for Programme and Coordination, when it considers the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997;

"6. Decides that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, when the latter is in session, shall hold at least monthly informal meetings to discuss relevant issues;

"7 Decides that, during the regular sessions of the General Assembly, the Fifth Committee and the Joint Inspection Unit, through their respective chairmen, shall hold monthly informal meetings."

8. Also at the 66th meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution to the resumed forty-ninth session.

9. At the same meeting, the Chairman proposed, and the Committee adopted, an oral decision entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" (see para. 10, draft decision IV).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

10. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I

Progress made in the implementation of procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the matter, 1/ welcomes the progress made in the implementation of procurement reform in the United Nations Secretariat.

1/ A/C.5/49/67.

Draft decision II

Audit of the United Nations Protection Force personnel pilot project

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the United Nations Protection Force personnel pilot project, 2/ takes note of the report.

Draft decision III

Investigation of allegations of irregularities and mismanagement and audit of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

The General Assembly, having considered the reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the investigation of allegations of irregularities and mismanagement 3/ and on the audit of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, 4/ takes note of the reports.

Draft decision IV

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

The General Assembly decides to defer consideration of the documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations to its fiftieth session and requests the Secretary-General to update his report on the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat 5/ and to apprise the Assembly of the measures taken in order to implement the recommendations contained in his report on the establishment of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility. 6/

2/ A/49/914.

3/ A/49/884.

4/ A/49/937.

5/ A/49/336.

6/ A/C.5/49/1.